

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend the Abstract
2. Editorially amend the specification.
3. Cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.
4. Amend claim 1 to include therein all limitations of former dependent claim 2.
5. Amend the dependencies of claims 3 and 7.
6. Remind the examiner to consider the August 22, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).
7. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.
8. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a Petition to Extend.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0053360 to Kinoshita et al. Claims 12, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,242,685 to Mizukami et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 as amended, as well as original independent claim 13, both require a left-side frame element and a right-side frame element respectively provided with a water-leakage preventive edge. Ishikawa, Kinoshita and Mizukami fail to disclose

or suggest, among other things, a water-leakage preventive edge provided both in the left-side frame element and the right-side frame element.

In rejecting former dependent claim 2, the office action alleged element 11 of Ishikawa to be the first frame element (front, eaves side); Ishikawa element 40 to be the second frame element (rear, ridge side); Ishikawa element 35 to be the third frame element (left side); and Ishikawa element 36 to be the fourth frame element (right side). The alleged correspondence is incorrect, since element 11 corresponds to the entire Ishikawa frame, and the four orthogonal frame members are more properly identified as 33 (upper), 34 (lower), and 35 (two side members). (*See*, e.g., col. 7, lines 55+).

Moreover, the office action appears to be in error in identifying element 25 of U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al as a water-leakage preventative edge of the left side frame element (see middle of page 4 of the office action). As indicated above, element 25 of Ishikawa is instead a ventilation louver 25 provided at a lower or eaves edge of the Ishikawa module. The office action also errs, and is inconsistent, in designating the Ishikawa piece 39 as being in the right side frame. As also indicated above, elongated fragment 39 is formed on the lower frame 34. Thus, the office action appears to have confused the orientations of the Ishikawa frame members.

Moreover, neither of the side members 35, 35 of Ishikawa appear to have water-leakage preventative edges. Rather, it appears that side members 35, 35 each have a C-shaped section similar to that of Fig. 8, so that the flat edge plate surfaces 38 seem flush with one another. (*See*, again, e.g., col. 7, lines 55+).

Therefore, amended claim 1 and independent claim 13 of the present application is not obvious even from the combination of these three cited references.

C. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

The August 22, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed one day after mailing of the office action. The Examiner is kindly reminded to consider the August 22, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and cite the references noted therein.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /H. Warren Burnam, Jr./
H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsb
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100